

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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SPORT, SUBSISTENCE, AND PERSONAL USE TANNER CRAB FISHERIES REMAINED CLOSED IN KACHEMAK BAY, KAMISHAK BAY AND NORTH GULF COAST WATERS EO # 2-SF-H-02-13 and EO #2-SF-H-03-13

All non-commercial (subsistence, personal use, and sport) Tanner crab fisheries in Registration Area H will remain closed for the 2013–2014 season. This includes waters of Cook Inlet (Kachemak Bay and Kamishak Bay) and the North Gulf Coast. Survey results indicate a continued low level of legal male Tanner crabs; well below that which is needed to open the fishery according to the 5AAC 35.408 Registration Area H Tanner Crab Harvest Strategy.

From the June 2013 survey in Kachemak Bay, the department estimates 38,053 legal male Tanner crab. Although this level does not reach the required threshold, this estimate of legal male Tanner crab is higher than last season and similar to 2011. The estimate of legal males in 2012 was 20,501 crab and 41,595 crab in 2011.

A complete summary of the 2013 survey results will be provided in a separate News Release in early August. Although the legal crab estimates were very low in the 2012 survey, estimates of total male crab abundance (both legal sized and sublegal size) were the highest since 1991. Primary contributors to these high estimates were prerecruit-3 and prerecruit-4 crab which are not expected to recruit to legal size for three to four years.

A biennial survey was conducted in Kamishak Bay in 2012 to estimate legal male Tanner crab abundance west of the line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point and the North Gulf Coast. No legal-sized Tanner crabs were measured in that survey, resulting in the closure of non-commercial fisheries in that area. The Kamishak Bay area will be surveyed again in 2014.

For additional information contact Jan Rumble or Carol Kerkvliet in Homer.

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